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| FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | SERRAO, RANODHI N | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2141 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/042,253

Applicant(s)

MUTO, SHIN

Examiner

Ranodhi Serrao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/13/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
2. The following title is suggested: Status notification of monitored devices through electronic mail.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 16-22, 25-26, 30-37, 41, 42, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sekizawa (6,430,711).
5. As per claims 1 and 16, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus which controls a data transfer in a device (col. 4, lines 33-63), comprising: status obtaining means for obtaining status information about a status of said device; message obtaining means for obtaining a message according to the status information obtained by said status obtaining means; transmission data generation means for generating transmission data according to the message and destination information indicating a

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message destination (col. 19, lines 15-35); electronic mail transmission means for transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated by said transmission data generation means (col. 30, lines 35-63); data generation means for generating data that indicates a setting screen displayed on an external apparatus, for setting said destination information (col. 26, lines 9-22); and data transmission means for transmitting the data generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus (col. 10, line 55-col. 11, line 5).

6. As per claims 2 and 17, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, further comprising destination information storage means for storing information indicating a destination of electronic mail and information to be added to the electronic mail as said destination information (col. 4, lines 6-26).

7. As per claims 3 and 18, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said electronic mail transmission means transmits the electronic mail to a client apparatus through a mail server apparatus connected to a communications medium (col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 14).

8. As per claim 4, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein: said data transfer process apparatus is a network board connected to a printer (col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 14); and said message obtaining means obtains the message from the printer (col. 19, lines 15-35).

9. As per claims 5, 20, 31, 42, and 44, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus which controls a data transfer in a device, comprising: information holding means for holding setting information set for transmission of an electronic mail

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containing a message in a natural language depending on status information about the device (col. 20, line 58-col. 21, line 8); data generation means for generating data indicating a setting screen of said setting information displayed on an external apparatus (col. 25, lines 10-39); and data transmission means for transmitting the data generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus (col. 10, line 55-col. 11, line 5).

10. As per claims 6, 21, and 32, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, further comprising: setting information obtaining means for obtaining setting information transmitted from said external apparatus (col. 20, lines 51-57); and setting information holding means for holding the setting information obtained by said setting information obtaining means (col. 21, lines 9-20).

11. As per claims 7, 22, and 33, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said setting information includes information indicating a condition of transmitting said electronic mail (col. 35, lines 28-38).

12. As per claims 10, 25, and 36, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said message relates to a supplement of expendables used in the device, an exchange of expendables used in the device, or a process status of the device (col. 29, lines 25-47).

13. As per claim 11, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said data transfer process apparatus is a network board connected to a printer (col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 14).

14. As per claims 19, 26, and 37, Sekizawa teaches a device, wherein said device is a printer (col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 14).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 8, 9, 12-15, 23-24, 27-30, 35, 38-41, 43, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekizawa and Motoyama et al. (6,581,092).

17. As per claims 8, 23, and 34, Sekizawa teaches the mentioned limitations of claims 5, 20, and 31 above but fails to teach a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said setting information includes information indicating a reply destination of said electronic mail. However, Motoyama et al. teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said setting information includes information indicating a reply destination of said electronic mail (see Motoyama et al., col. 16, lines 5-33). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Sekizawa to a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said setting information includes information indicating a reply destination of said electronic mail in order to transmit summary information regarding usage of a device originating from the device through a service center to a resource manager or administrator (see Motoyama et al., col. 2, lines 55-59).

18. As per claims 9, 24, and 35, Sekizawa teaches the mentioned limitations of claims 5, 20, and 31 above but fails to teach a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address of said electronic mail and a condition of transmitting said electronic mail. However, Motoyama et al. teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address of said electronic mail and a condition of transmitting said electronic mail (see Motoyama et al., col. 16, lines 5-33 and col. 18, lines 43-59). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Sekizawa to a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address of said electronic mail and a condition of transmitting said electronic mail in order to transmit summary information regarding usage of a device originating from the device through a service center to a resource manager or administrator (see Motoyama et al., col. 2, lines 55-59).

19. As per claims 12, 27, 38, 43, and 45, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus which controls a data transfer in a device, comprising: status obtaining means for obtaining status information about a status of said device; message obtaining means for obtaining a message according to the status information obtained by said status obtaining means (see Sekizawa, col. 19, lines 15-35); storage means for storing destination information indicating a destination of an electronic mail (see Sekizawa, col. 4, lines 6-26); transmission data generation means for generating transmission data according to the message and the destination information (see Sekizawa, col. 30, lines 35-63), and electronic mail transmission means for transmitting as electronic mail the

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transmission data generated by said transmission data generation means (see Sekizawa, col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 14). But fails to teach adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail to the generated transmission data. However, Motoyama et al. teaches adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail to the generated transmission data (see Motoyama et al., col. 16, lines 5-33). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Sekizawa to adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail to the generated transmission data in order to allow a particular end user to send the usage of a device from the device either to a resource administrator or through a firewall to a service center (see Motoyama et al., col. 3, lines 11-37).

20. As per claims 13, 28, and 39, Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, further comprising: data generation means for generating data that indicates a setting screen displayed on an external apparatus, for setting the destination information (see Sekizawa, col. 26, lines 9-22) and data transmission means for transmitting the data generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus (see Sekizawa, col. 10, line 55-col. 11, line 5). But fails to teach a reply destination information. However, Motoyama et al. teaches a reply destination information (see Motoyama et al., col. 16, lines 5-33). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Sekizawa to a reply destination information in order to prepare data for transmission in e-mail messages (see Motoyama et al., col. 20, line 61-col. 21, line 5).

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21. As per claims 14, 29, and 40, Sekizawa teaches the mentioned limitations of claims 12, 27, and 38 above but fails to teach a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said storage means stores a reply address of electronic mail. However, Motoyama et al. teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said storage means stores a reply address of electronic mail (see Motoyama et al., col. 16, lines 5-33). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Sekizawa to a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said storage means stores a reply address of electronic mail in order to transmit summary information regarding usage of a device originating from the device through a service center to a resource manager or administrator (see Motoyama et al., col. 2, lines 55-59).

22. As per claim 15, Sekizawa and Motoyama et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claim 12 above but Motoyama et al. fails to teach a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said data transfer process apparatus is a network board connected to a printer. However Sekizawa teaches a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said data transfer process apparatus is a network board connected to a printer (see Sekizawa, col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 14). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Sekizawa to a data transfer process apparatus, wherein said data transfer process apparatus is a network board connected to a printer in order to enable various machines and computers for monitoring, diagnosing and controlling the operation of the machines (see Motoyama et al., col. 5, lines 24-52).

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23. As per claims 30 and 41, Sekizawa and Motoyama et al. teach the mentioned limitations of claims 27 and 38 above but Motoyama et al. fails to teach a device, wherein said device is a printer. However, Sekizawa teaches a device, wherein said device is a printer (see Sekizawa, col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 14). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Sekizawa to a device, wherein said device is a printer in order to enable various machines and computers for monitoring, diagnosing and controlling the operation of the machines (see Motoyama et al., col. 5, lines 24-52).

Conclusion

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. These references are disclosed in the Notice of References Cited and teach numerous other ways of implementing a data transfer process apparatus, device, status, notifying method, storage medium storing program for status notification, and program for status notification, thus a close review of them is suggested.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ranodhi Serrao whose telephone number is (571)272-7967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571)272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER